GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5957
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
EXPORT OF MARINE PRODUCTS
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing difficulty in export of the marine products, dye and dyeing material and leather products due to imposition of environment related restriction on these items by the western countries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) & (b) The difficulties being faced in the export of marine products, dye and dyeing material to the Western countries are:

(i) Shrimp caught from the sea and wild by mechanised shrimp trawlers not fitted with Turtle Excluder Devices(TED) cannot be exported to USA.However, aqua cultured shrimp and shrimp produced through artisanal fishings can be exported to USA provided it is accompanied by a certificate from Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) stating that the shrimp is produced through acquaculture or by artisanal means or from cold waters where there are no turtles, etc.

(ii) Stringent environmental rules are imposed by the Pollution Control Board, New Delhi based on WTO norms on export of dye and dyeing material.

No recent environmental related problem has been brought to the notice of the Government either by the Council for Leather Exports or the leather exporters in respect of export of leather.

(c) The Government of India and State Governments have now made use of the TED mandatory in certain parts of the sea off the coasts of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh , Tamil Nadu and Kerala.MPEDA has so far fabricated around 2900 TED and made these available to the State Governments for distribution amongst mechanized fishing vessel operators, free of cost. Exports to USA of aqua cultured shrimp and shrimp caught through artisanal fishing are being facilitated by the MPEDA by issuing certificates.Some of the States including Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have demonstrated the use of TED on board fishing vessels for training the crew on proper installation of TED.MPEDA also organizes workshops and training camps, in association with all other concerned, on fabrication and installation to educate the boat owners and the crew.